

Notwithstanding the inapplicability of Berebitsysky et al. under §102(b), Berebitsysky is not applicable to applicants invention. Berebitsysky et al is directed to a bank check making system that makes it easier for a user to process gift certificates after redemption and to maintain accounting records. Berebitsysky describes configuring a gift certificate so that it can be shared by multiple store locations. There is no suggestion in Berebitsysky to provide the ability to place restrictions on the use of gift certificates, contribute anonymously on a reoccurring basis, nor providing an apparatus for maintaining a gift certificate authority.

Applicant's claim 1 is directed to an online web-based system that allows electronic gift certificates to be used by multiple merchants. In addition, the same electronic gift certificate can be split across multiple transactions at different merchants. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and therefore include the limitations thereof. Since claim 1 is patentable over Berebitsysky claims 2-9 are also patentable.

Applicant's claim 10 is directed to placing restrictions on the use of the electronic gift certificate. Claims 11-16 depend from claim 10 and therefore include the limitations thereof. Since claim 10 is patentable over Berebitsysky claims 11-16 are also patentable.

Applicant's claim 17 is directed to providing a method for allowing registrants to contribute anonymously on a reoccurring basis. Claim 18 depend from claim 17 and therefore includes the limitations thereof. Since claim 17 is patentable over Berebitsysky claim 18 is also patentable.

Applicant's claim 19 is directed to defining an apparatus that will comprise the Gift Certificate Authority system. Claims 20-22 depend from claim 19 and therefore include the limitations thereof. Since claim 19 is patentable over Berebitsysky claims 20-22 are also patentable.

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Applicants have filed this response prior to the expiration of three months and have not presented additional claims. Accordingly, Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for consideration of this response.